
http:// **Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership**

Supporting Policies Which Ensure High Speed Internet Access for Underserved Communities

February 4, 2003

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Your testimony to the Senate Commerce Committee on January 14, 2003 was on point regarding the advancement of competition in the various markets of the telecommunications industry. I encourage you to ensure that this realization drives your triennial review deliberations – especially with regard to broadband reform.

It may have been fortunate for American consumers that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 did not take into account that wireless telephony would so quickly emerge as a new and distinct market that would rival wire-line telephony within a few short years. This lack of foresight had a decidedly positive consequence – extremely rapid innovation and deployment of wireless technology, numerous competitors and lower prices to consumers. In fact, the wireless industry seems to find a new price bottom every week. This could not have occurred if the wireless market had been heavily regulated – the sluggish broadband market is evidence of this.

The triennial review places you in a unique position to set broadband policy that will ensure proper incentives to increase investment, innovation, and job creation in this new market. As you are aware, the current regulatory environment actually discourages investment and competition from local telephone companies in new broadband technology and networks. Meanwhile cable providers, operating without the same regulatory encumbrances, provide nearly 70 percent of broadband services at prices that continue to go up. True competition in the broadband market can remedy this inequity and economic consequence.

The Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership (HTTP) is an organization comprised of 18 well respected national Hispanic organizations in the United States. Collectively, HTTP member organizations represent the interests of over 40 million American consumers. We urge to ensure that an equitable, market driven, national broadband policy emerges from your triennial review deliberations – for the benefit of all Americans and our national economy.

Sincerely,

Manuel Mirabal
Co-Chair and Founder
HTTP

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